FDI for Madarsa

399. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow FDI in the education sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether FDI would be allowed for Madarsas also; and

(d) if so, whether Government have taken into consideration the security angle and the role played by certain Madarsas in communal violence in the past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Drop-outs in college level correspondence courses

400. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a steady increase in the number of drop-out in the 2nd and 3rd years of the correspondence courses at college level;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of drop-outs of correspondence courses at college level for the last five years; and

(c) what plans Government have to counter this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), which has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordination and maintenance of standards in distance education system in tertiary level in the country, the open and distance education allows a student to complete courses/programmes at ones own pace and time which permits a student to drop-out and appear for the examination